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News readers suggest uses for post office building

From time to time, the Carbondale NEWS publishes a "Pulse of the Area" survey to gather the opinions of its readers on important issues affecting the Pioneer City. The NEWS' most recent survey was run in the January 26 issue and asked readers for their suggestions on what use the Post Office building on North Main Street should be put to once the facility is relocated in a building to be constructed on Dundaff Street, across from Trichilo Wholesale Foods Inc.

S. Robert Powell, president of the Carbondale Historical Society, responded to the survey and referred either of two suggestions for future use of the building. "Persuade the U.S. Postal Service to donate the building to the Carbondale Historical Society for use as a Greater Carbondale Area Museum," or, "Persuade Lackawanna County to buy the building for use as the Upper Lackawanna Valley Museum."

In early January, Powell presided at an Historical Society public meeting at Berean Baptist Church, designed to give city residents the opportunity to voice their opinions about the relocation of the P[illegible] Office to Dundaff Street, and to hear re[illegible]s for the relocation, from Postmaster Gerald Barrett and Louis Scombordi, supervisor of postal operations at the local post office.

Thomas Ryder, Rockledge, Florida, suggested that the present post office be renovated into a chapel, "where people could, any time of day or night, pray to God, confess their sins and ask His blessings." Ryder added that the chapel could be decorated with flowers and ferns, and senior citizens could possibly make draperies for its windows.

Mr. Ryder stated that in 1920, "I worked for the Carbondale LEADER. I bundled papers and put them on the street car. One went to Forest City and the other to Mayfield, and I was paid with two passes for shows at the Majestic Theatre. I also sold papers on the street, and I paid one cent per paper and sold them for two cents profit. I can still see those people waiting for their change from nickles."

Susan Barlow Stephens, 133 Salem Avenue, suggested that an "organization should take it over that will take care of it in a proper manner," while **Mr. and Mrs. Robert Evans**, RD 1, Finch Hill, suggested that the building be used for Carbondale area veterans' organizations.

Donna Arnese, 83 Orchard Street, suggested, "It should be converted into a cinema theatre. It would be nice to not have to go to Scranton to see a good movie."

Mrs. Ruth Chapman, 44 Lincoln Avenue, commented the present post office should be used as "a collection agency for light, telephone, gas, sewerage and tax bills, as well as for letter and small parcel mailing. This would accomodate the elderly. Now one has to go to various stores and banks to pay these commodities."

An unsigned survey response noted that the building be used for a "people's court for small claims, with a qualified judge only, no attorneys. This people's court is viewed on television every evening, is now in force in California, and is proving very successful."

Dorothy Race, 74 Lunny Court, noted the post office should remain where it is, "but an addition should be put on, as was done at the Liberty Bank. They outgrew the old part of the building, so they built on an addition, and now it's beautiful and also adequate."

Also opposing the post office relocation are **Carol Ann and Virginia DeLucy**, 82 Brook Street. The writer noted, "The post office is a beautiful building that could be refurbished with the money used to build a new one. The post office is centrally locateda now, and moving it would be a great inconvenience."

Claire M. Brennan and Mary A. Healey, 14 North Main Street, commented that they strongly oppose the relocation.